



LKN Keeping You Informed

November 2009 Issue

November 30

Social media gives people energy and confidence. *Mashable.com*

According to the research, originally conducted by Euro RSCG Worldwide, about 31% of adults feel empowered to do something they've been wanting to do thanks to social media, while 20% have used the medium to lash out at companies and brands they feel wronged by. The Internet is also a big help when it comes to trying to meet new people.

[Full article](#)

Hong Kong Disneyland. *Business Week*

A month after the Chinese government finally gave the okay for Shanghai Disneyland, skeptics are pointing out the park's success is hardly a sure thing. The latest edition of the Beijing Review ("China's National English Weekly"), just out today, proudly states how China "will be the first country to host more than one Disneyland." However, the Beijing Review adds, "amid the profit frenzy and hopes for commercial and industrial growth brought by the little mouse from overseas, doubts and uncertainty also arose.

[Full article](#)

India's economy shows surprising growth. *Business Week*

India's \$1.2 trillion economy may be among the world's first to come roaring out of the global recession, as government data showed it grew by 7.9% in the quarter ended on Sept. 30, the largest growth since the Indian government started releasing the figures in 1996.

[Full article](#)

November 29

IBM v. SAS: The battle of data analysis software. *Business Week*

In the past two years, IBM, SAP, and Oracle have bought companies that compete with SAS in providing software that can predict trends, identify profitable customers, reduce risk, or shave costs. SAS CEO Goodnight views the mergers as a chance to make hay. "We always look for any company that's acquired to be messed up for a year," Goodnight says in an interview.

[Full article](#)

President Chavez threatens to nationalize banks. *Business Week*

President Hugo Chavez threatened to nationalize banks that violate regulations. "The president is attacking not corruption but rather one of the criminal organizations that is operating within the government," said Delsa Solorzano, an opposition politician, in a telephone interview. "This scandal is linked to internal conflicts surrounding the president involving groups that manage state resources."

[Full article](#)

UAE to back bank amid Dubai meltdown. *Business Week*

The United Arab Emirates' central bank will offer additional liquidity to banks, signaling a push by the federal government to reassure investors worried about the country's banking sector and its exposure to Dubai's crushing debt. As part of its restructuring effort, it would ask creditors to delay repayment of its debt and that of its real estate arm, Nakheel, until at least May.

[Full article](#)

GPS challenged by cell phone app. *Business Week*

The growth of cell phones with global-positioning technology is making life uncertain for the makers of personal navigational devices that help drivers figure out where they are and where to go. They risk obsolescence in a future in which customers view navigation as simply one more application for their phones. Manufacturers already have begun broadening their GPS products, adding wireless technology to some of their top-end devices to provide up-to-the-minute traffic data, nearby gas prices and weather information.

[Full article](#)

November 28

Dubai looks to Abu-Dhabi for bail out. *Business Week*

As world markets absorbed the shock of Dubai's debt crisis, the ruler of the once-booming city-state left town for an important meeting in a desert palace. His hosts: the leaders of neighboring Abu Dhabi whose balance sheets are flush with oil revenue. "Depleting market confidence in Dubai carries serious risks for Abu Dhabi," said Hani Sabra of Eurasia Group, a U.S.-based research firm that assesses political risk for foreign investors in Dubai and the Gulf.

[Full article](#)

Hyundai suspends passenger autos in Japan. *Business Week*

Hyundai, South Korea's No. 1 automaker, has found it tough going in Japan and sold only about 15,000 passenger cars there since 2001 when it made inroads into the home market of international rival Toyota Motor Corp., the world's biggest automaker. "Hyundai Motor has decided to suspend passenger vehicle sales in Japan and will instead allocate its resources to

focus on commercial vehicle sales in the country," Hyundai said in a statement.

[Full article](#)

November 27

Cell phones: classroom teaching tool. *Business Week*

Today's phones are the equivalent of small computers. Schools such as Wiregrass Ranch High School in Wesley Chapel in Florida, are abandoning traditional policies of cell phone prohibition and incorporating them into class lessons. "It really is taking advantage of the love affair that kids have with technology today," said Dan Domevech, executive director of the nonprofit American Association of School Administrators. "The kids are much more motivated to use their cell phone in an educational manner."

[Full article](#)

Dubai World in debt. *Business Week*

Now Sheikh Mohammed is calling for a standstill on debt repayments at one of his most important companies, Dubai World, least temporarily rocking world markets and raising huge questions about the future of Dubai. The Standard & Poor's 500 index of 500 stocks fell 1.7% in abbreviated trading Friday, to 1,091.49, and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index had slipped 1.8%.

[Full article](#)

November 26

Quince Mil, Peru: a new discovery. *Time.com*

Quince Mil is in Peru's southern jungle. It sits at a strategic point on one of the final legs of a new highway that will link Peru's Pacific coast to Sao Paulo on Brazil's southern Atlantic coast. José Bonifaz, an economist at Peru's University of the Pacific, calculates that the road will generate close to \$2 billion for local communities in the coming two decades.

[Full article](#)

U.S. demands cheap wine but creates controversy. *Business Week*

More wine could be consumed globally this year, thanks to crisis-fueled demand for cheaper or discounted tipples, particularly in the United States. However wine growers have been cautioned to resist what he called the "massive pressure on prices," which erodes profits. The International Organization of Vine and Wine said that erosion may have halted as wine growers battled to maintain sales volumes by cutting prices and as more wine is sold in bulk.

[Full article](#)

Sony gets a TV repairman. *Business Week*

Sony has lost money for the past five years, and is expected to do so again this year. Yoshioka was appointed head of the Consumer Products and

Devices division following a shakeup in the top management ranks. His top priority is to make TVs profitable by next fiscal year, through March 2011. Citigroup Global Markets Japan analyst Kota Ezawa has forecast that the TV business will post an operating loss of \$720 million this fiscal year, ending in March 2010.

[Full article](#)

November 25

Israel settlement freeze for Palestinian peace talks. *CNN.com*

Israeli government ministers Wednesday overwhelmingly approved a temporary freeze on settlement construction in the West Bank in an effort to restart peace talks with the Palestinians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it "a very big step toward peace" and said he hoped the Palestinians would "take full advantage" of the opportunity to restart talks during the 10-month window.

[Full article](#)

Intel abides by new rules. *Business Week*

In the wake of a landmark legal settlement, chipmaker Intel agreed to abide by a new set of "rules of the road." The world's largest maker of semiconductors said it would no longer engage in practices that got it sued by rival Advanced Micro Devices and regulators around the world.

[Full article](#)

Saab brand affects China's auto ambition. *Business Week*

Koenigsegg Group's decision to walk away from a deal to buy Saab is not just a blow to GM, which now probably has no choice but to shut down Saab completely, and the automaker's workers. It's also a setback for China's auto industry's global ambitions. Beijing Automotive Industry (BAIC) had been one of Koenigsegg's partners in the Swedish sports-car maker's proposed acquisition.

[Full article](#)

Target in the shadow of Walmart. *Business Week*

Target reinvented American retailing. By democratizing design, it rescued the family budgeter from the aesthetic provinces of dinette sets and acid-washed jeans. Target was one of the first to use famous fashion designers to cast a halo over its brand and draw people into its stores. All the same, a kind of role reversal is under way in Retail Land. Wal-Mart has long borrowed from Target. Now Target is stalking Wal-Mart.

[Full article](#)

November 24

Facebook seeking to go public. *CNN.com*

Facebook has followed Google's lead and introduced a dual-class stock structure, the clearest sign yet that the world's most popular social

networking site is preparing for an eventual public offering. Facebook confirmed the plan in a statement, saying that "existing shareholders wanted to maintain control over voting on certain issues to help ensure the company can continue to focus on the long-term to build a great business".

[Full article](#)

Saab coming to an end. *Business Week*

Koenigsegg Group AB has decided to pull out of its earlier agreement to buy Saab from General Motors. As for Saab, collapsing the brand really is the best thing for GM. The last thing the company needs as it is trying to find profits in North America, get attention for its besmirched brands and restructure Opel in Europe is wrestle with Saab. GM has never been able to adequately fund it ever since buying 50% of it back in 1990.

[Full article](#)

Bryne leaving Business Week. *Business Week*

John A. Byrne, for years one of BusinessWeek's most prolific writers and later one its most admired editors, is leaving the magazine to launch his own digital media company. Under his leadership of BusinessWeek's web operations, which he assumed in 2007, traffic and user engagement, with monthly unique visitors has risen by 40% to 10.4 million.

[Full article](#)

Twitter is an advertising treasure. *CNN.com*

Companies are offering to pay Twitterers to gain access to their followers so they can send them Tweets containing ads. The more followers you have, the more money you make. The company launched its service in late September, and CEO Sean Rad said it has already signed up eight of the approximately 50 individual twitterers who have more than 1 million followers.

[Full article](#)

November 23

China tells banks to control lending. *Business Week*

Regulators ordered Chinese banks to control lending and manage risks better amid concern that a rapid, stimulus-fueled credit boom this year might affect the industry's health. China's state-owned banking industry is financially healthy, having avoided the mortgage-related turmoil that battered Western institutions. It has been one of Beijing's most important tools in carrying out its stimulus, which calls for some 75% of planned spending to be financed not by the government but by banks and state companies.

[Full article](#)

Kuwait targets \$8.7 billion in projects. *Business Week*

Kuwait's development minister says the oil-rich country wants to tender \$8.7 billion in new development projects by next April. Sheik Ahmad Fahad Al-Sabah is saying the projects include three new housing communities, a bridge, a hospital, and a port expansion. Kuwait, which relies on oil exports

for the majority of its government revenue, was among the harder hit of the Gulf Arab nations as the global recession battered demand for crude.

[Full article](#)

November 22

UN climate change summit in Denmark. *Business Week*

The conference aims to reach an accord on curbing emissions of greenhouse gases, which are blamed for global warming. The new treaty would replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. 65 world leaders so far will attend the Copenhagen climate summit in December and several more have responded positively to invitations.

[Full article](#)

Deutsche Bahn signs Qatar railroad deal. *Business Week*

Under the deal, the Qatari Diar Real Estate Investment Company and Deutsche Bahn AG will set up a joint venture to develop a metro system in Qatar's capital, as well as a national rail network and a long-distance connection to neighboring Bahrain. "This announcement represents the next step in the creation of this visionary Qatari project that will truly revolutionize the ease and convenience by which people travel," said Ghanim Bin Saad al-Saad, Qatari Diar's chief executive.

[Full article](#)

November 21

Blockbuster to combine stocks. *Business Week*

Blockbuster Inc. plans to combine its Class A and Class B common shares after receiving notice its stock didn't comply with the NYSE listing standards. The combination will improve the company's stock liquidity and eliminate confusion. Blockbuster faces stiff competition from Netflix Inc. and Coinstar Inc.'s Redbox. Its third-quarter loss more than quintupled as more consumers rented movies by mail or through competitors' vending kiosks instead of driving to its stores.

[Full article](#)

November 20

DT to seek U.S. partner for T-Mobile USA. *Business Week*

T-Mobile USA's parent Deutsche Telekom is looking for U.S. partners to help fund the U.S. wireless carrier's network build-out. Potential partners may include Clearwire, MetroPCS or Leap, according to the Reuters and a German newspaper report. Neither of these partners may have the funds for such a deal, however.

[Full article](#)

Chile's economy: complete satisfaction? *Business Week*

Chile has come a long way since 1990, when democracy was restored after 17 years of military rule. The economy has been one of the world's fastest-growing, inflation is a distant memory, the poverty level has fallen to 13% from 45%, and per capita gross domestic product has quadrupled, to \$10,100. Yet, there is still dissatisfaction.

[Full article](#)

Mexican economy rebounding. *Business Week*

Mexico has suffered a severe economic crisis for more than a year, but the new figures confirmed what officials have been saying in recent weeks: the rebound has begun. Mexico's government says the economy grew 2.93% in 3rd quarter, marking an end to the recession.

[Full article](#)

De facto Honduras President to step down. *CNN.com*

De facto Honduran President Roberto Micheletti will temporarily step down from power in the days surrounding the scheduled November 29 presidential election, Micheletti said. An agreement to end the political crisis, signed by representatives of both sides last month, has not been smoothly implemented, putting in question of the legitimacy of the upcoming presidential election.

[Full article](#)

MySpace to buy Imeem? *Business Week*

News Corp.'s social networking site MySpace is close to clinching an agreement to purchase Imeem, an online music business started in 2003. More than a dozen startups are struggling to make a profit using a formula similar to Imeem's. The service, which lets users play virtually any song over the Web at any time for no charge, pays record labels small fees for each play.

[Full article](#)

November 19

Skype: Sold and worth \$2.75 billion. *Mashable.com*

eBay, which bought Skype for \$2.6 billion in 2005, settled outstanding litigation with Skype's founders. The result: Skype now owns all of its technology, the founders received 14% of Skype and two seats on the Board of Directors, eBay keeps 30% of Skype, and the rest is owned by outside investors.

[Full article](#)

Cisco struggling to expand its market share. *Business Week*

CEO Chambers is struggling to show how his \$36 billion behemoth can remain a growth company and improve its stock market performance. The company has become a leader in computer security and office phones. Where it can't beat the competition, it buys them. It's offering \$3 billion for

Tandberg, a Norwegian company that makes videoconferencing systems that have proven more popular than Cisco's high-end products.

[Full article](#)

Facebook valued at \$9.5 billion. *Mashable.com*

The \$9.5 billion number is derived from the value of Facebook's stock. While Facebook is a private company, stock of the social networking company is still getting exchanged. The value today is around \$21 per share, a big jump from the price Digital Ventures paid in July: \$14.77 per share. It now has over 325 million users and continues to gain new users at a clip of half a million every single day. Plus, with Facebook now cashflow positive and exploring new revenue possibilities, its value will only keep rising.

[Full article](#)

Microsoft Mobile successful? *CNN.com*

Microsoft Windows continues to dominate the PC market with a 90% market-share stronghold, but when it comes to smartphones, Microsoft is getting beat up. Windows Mobile had 11% of the global smartphone market in the third quarter of 2008, according to Gartner, and last quarter Windows Mobile's market share plummeted to 7.9%.

[Full article](#)

Sony to release its own "iTunes." *Business Week*

Sony said it plans to launch an online store selling music, movies, and books as well as other downloadable applications for mobile products. Analysts say that creating software to sell an array of online services and content is Sony's best hope of improving its fortunes. "Sony has been too focused on hardware," says Tokai Tokyo Research Center analyst Osamu Hirose. "It has to focus on networked products and delivering digital entertainment to consumers."

[Full article](#)

Citigroup gains Bank of America chief. *Business Week*

Citigroup Inc. named a former Merrill Lynch executive, Steve Bodurtha, as managing director and head of investments for North America. Bodurtha will be responsible for managing the investments platform for Citi Private Bank across the U.S. and Canada.

[Full article](#)

California new energy efficient TV standards. *CNN.com*

The California Energy Commission became the first state to impose energy efficiency standards for televisions. The new standards, which will take effect in January 2011, prevent the sale of energy-guzzling televisions with a screen size 58 inches or smaller, mandating that new models consume 33% less electricity by 2011 and 49% less electricity by 2013.

[Full article](#)

Hershey wants to buy Cadbury. *Business Week*

Hershey may place a bid for Cadbury. The reasons for Hershey's interest in Cadbury are clear since the two companies have explored deals in the past. Hershey has tried to expand sales beyond U.S. borders in recent years, with limited success. In 2007 it formed a joint venture with a South Korean confectionery firm, and acquired majority ownership of an Indian candy company.

[Full article](#)

November 17

China: U.S. economic threat? *Business Week*

Americans are split over whether China represents a military threat to the United States however there is no doubt in the public's mind that the country poses an economic threat. According to a national survey, two-thirds see China as a source of unfair competition for U.S. companies, while only a quarter are more likely to view China as a huge potential market for U.S. goods.

[Full article](#)

Kia opens new U.S. plant. *Business Week*

While other automakers slash output and close production lines, South Korea's Kia Motors has just opened a \$1 billion plant in Georgia. The new factory, part of Kia's growing presence in the U.S. market, has an annual capacity of 300,000 vehicles. Kia, controlled by Hyundai Motor, Korea's largest carmaker, is confident it can increase its U.S. sales by double digits next year.

[Full article](#)

India still obsessing over Pakistan. *NPR*

Many people died in the communal bloodletting that followed the partition of India in 1947. However, Rahul Gandhi, who many observers believe will one day lead India, would like to see his nation spending much less time obsessing about Pakistan. "We are now becoming a serious international player. Pakistan is a very small piece of our worldview," he says.

[Full article](#)

Czechs celebrate 20th anniversary of Velvet Revolution. *CNN.com*

Fireworks and rock 'n' roll echoed across central Prague on Tuesday as thousands of marchers commemorated the 20th anniversary of the "Velvet Revolution" that toppled Communist rule. The celebration was organized by Opona, a nonprofit group established to observe the milestone anniversary of the dismantling of the Iron Curtain.

[Full article](#)

November 16

Daimler, Abu Dhabi to buy Formula 1 team, Brawn GP. *Business Week*

The Abu Dhabi investment fund with the biggest stake in automaker Daimler says it is teaming with the Mercedes-Benz maker to buy a controlling stake in Formula 1 champions Brawn GP. Mercedes maker Daimler will own 45.1% of the team, while Abu Dhabi government-run Aabar will have a 30% share. The remaining quarter will stay with the existing owners.

[Full article](#)

November 15

China v. Low U.S. interest rates. *Business Week*

The declining U.S. dollar and reassurances by officials that interest rates will remain low were encouraging a "massive" U.S. dollar carry trade. China is the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt, mostly in the form of Treasury securities, which have declined in value as a result of the dollar's weakness. Strong flows of such funds into China's markets, where share prices have surged by more than 70% this year, and property have raised worries over a possible bubble in asset prices that might later implode, causing financial problems.

[Full article](#)

Hawaii is diverse but yet to be a racial paradise. *NPR*

Hawaii is known for its "Aloha Spirit" being a diverse mix of friendly people living on an island paradise. However some say that beneath the veneer of geniality are deep-seated ethnic and racial tensions between the island's white community and native Hawaiians.

[Full article](#)

Ray Tomlinson, inventor of email. *NPR*

When was the last time you actually set pen to paper and mailed off a personal letter to someone? It's probably been awhile and the man to blame is Ray Tomlinson. "We were working on ways in which humans and computers could interact," said Tomlinson. He eventually found a way to send messages from one computer to another inventing the system we now know as e-mail.

[Full article](#)

Suntech opens plant in Arizona. *Business Week*

China's Suntech Power Holdings announced its first American manufacturing plant that will be located in the Phoenix area. "The U.S. market is on the cusp of greatness," says Steven Chan, Americas president and chief strategy officer for Suntech. With the announcement, Suntech becomes the first major Chinese cleantech player to bring factory jobs to the U.S.

[Full article](#)

Videoconferencing improved with Cisco and Logitech. *Business Week*

Videoconferencing lets people around the globe hold face-to-face meetings electronically. Yet many videoconferencing products have for too long been

glitchy, overpriced, and hard to use. Logitech plans to use its manufacturing expertise to get better prices on components and make operations run more efficiently at the enlarged company, driving down prices on LifeSize's gear. Also Cisco announced Intranet software that would make videoconferencing a standard component on corporate Web sites.

[Full article](#)

November 14

Mexico plans tourism center in Gulf of Mexico. *Business Week*

Mexico is planning a big new tourism center near the U.S. border along the Gulf of Mexico. The Fonatur agency that also created Cancun says its new Costa Lora development should eventually have 20,000 rooms for guests and create 115,000 jobs.

[Full article](#)

Vivendi acquires GVT. *Business Week*

Vivendi SA takes control of Brazilian telecommunications operator GVT SA after a rival offer from Spain's Telefonica SA. Vivendi Chief Executive Jean-Bernard Levy said "Vivendi plans to be present for the long term in Brazil. Our aim is to further reinforce GVT's dynamism, give it a definitive shareholder and rapidly expand the company in those regions of Brazil where it currently has only a small presence."

[Full article](#)

Netherlands taxed on road time, not for car. *Business Week*

Rather than an annual road tax for their cars, drivers will soon pay a few cents for every kilometer (mile) on the road, in a plan aimed at breaking chronic traffic jams and cutting carbon emissions. The GPS devices installed in cars will track the time, hour and place each car moves and send the data to a billing agency.

[Full article](#)

General Motors to move Europe headquarters. *Business Week*

General Motors Co. wants to move its European headquarters to Germany from Switzerland before the end of the year. By moving its headquarters from Zurich to Adam Opel GmbH's Ruesselsheim headquarters in Germany, the company wants to strengthen its subsidiary Opel.

[Full article](#)

U.S. to join Asia Free Trade area. *Business Week*

U.S. signaled it will resist protectionism as it copes with the economic downturn, and that it will join a free-trade area with other Pacific Rim nations. APEC, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, was created to promote greater trade and integration among Pacific Rim nations. Its scope since has expanded to encompass a wide range of issues, including climate change, energy and food security, and politics.

[Full article](#)

Russia, Slovenia in South Stream pipe deal. *Business Week*

Slovenia has agreed to take part in a pipeline project carrying Russian natural gas to Europe, bolstering a Kremlin attempt to defend its position as the continent's primary supplier. Europe imports a quarter of its natural gas from Russia, and the Kremlin sees the South Stream network, scheduled to come online in 2015, as a way to defend against an alternative, Western-backed supply route that bypasses Russia.

[Full article](#)

Taiwan protests import of U.S. beef. *Business Week*

Taiwanese are protesting a government decision to lift a six-year ban on imports of some kinds of U.S. beef. The U.S. is one of Taiwan's biggest trading partners.

[Full article](#)

MGM looking to be purchased. *Business Week*

Struggling movie studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. is looking for a buyer. Potential buyers include Time Warner Inc., the parent of the Warner Bros. studio, and News Corp., home of 20th Century Fox.

[Full article](#)

November 13

Google: an online phone company. *CNN.com*

Google has bought Gizmo5, an online phone company that is akin to Skype but based on open protocols and with a lot fewer users. "All of a sudden you have something that offers more than Skype," Abramson, VOIP watcher and consultant said, saying the combo could now put Google in competition with phone and cable companies, IP "telephony" (VOIP) companies and Vonage. "But now you can do everything with Google and pay nothing and have a platform where engineers can build new things."

[Full article](#)

China and US energy giants team up for clean coal. *Business Week*

Led by Duke Energy, Southern Co., and their Chinese counterparts, utilities from the world's two largest greenhouse-gas-emitting nations are collaborating on crucial technologies that burn coal more cleanly and help capture and store CO2 emissions. The US and China are highly dependent on coal China creates 80% of its electric power from coal, the U.S. about 50% and anticipate not just tougher environmental rules but more costly coal.

[Full article](#)

November 12

U.S. President Obama takes important Asia trip. *CNN.com*

Throughout Obama's trip to Japan, Singapore, China and South Korea, Obama will emphasize the importance of Asian nations as vital U.S. partners

on major issues such as economic growth, nuclear nonproliferation, the war in Afghanistan and climate change, three officials said in a briefing this week. Obama understands that the future of our prosperity and our security is very much tied to this part of the world said Ben Rhodes, deputy national security adviser for strategic communications.

[Full article](#)

New overdraft fee rules in U.S. *NPR*

Under the Fed's new rule, which will take effect July 1, banks will be required to notify new and existing customers of their overdraft services and give customers the option of being covered. If customers don't "opt in," any debit or ATM transactions that overdraw their accounts will be denied, Fed officials said.

[Full article](#)

November 11

Venezuela nationalizes coffee. *Business Week*

Chavez's government has nationalized major players in the electricity, steel and cement sectors since 2007, as well as four major oil projects. It now says it's asserting control over coffee companies that it accuses of acting as monopolies and flouting price controls by smuggling coffee into Colombia.

[Full article](#)

Austria, Russia, and South Stream Pipeline. *Business Week*

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin sought to strengthen Russia's role as a top energy supplier to Europe by asking Austria to join the South Stream natural gas pipeline project. South Stream is one of two ambitious pipeline projects Russia is promoting in a bid to bypass economically struggling, politically turbulent Ukraine, as well as Belarus.

[Full article](#)

HP buys 3Com. *NPR*

With HP's acquisition of 3Com, the 3Com products will be folded into HP's own networking equipment business. HP says the deal will add new products to its line and help expand its presence in China.

[Full article](#)

November 10

Firefox is challenged by Google's Chrome. *CNNtechnology.com*

For all Google's enthusiasm for Firefox, it evidently wanted more. In September 2008, Google released its first beta of the Chrome Web browser. It employed some of Firefox's values such as performance, security, and open source. It also brought some Google-y values: a fast foundation for Web applications and a rapid release cycle.

[Full article](#)

Google offers free WiFi in airports. *CNNMoney.com*

Beginning Tuesday, Google is planning to foot the bill for WiFi at 47 of the nation's airports for the rest of the year. With some travelers spending more time on the ground in airports than on planes during the busy flying season, now seemed an especially fitting time to offer up the perk. "This is one of our holiday gifts to our users, and when you connect, we also hope you'll take the opportunity to try some of the latest Google products," the company said.

[Full article](#)

Twitter and LinkedIn combine forces. *CNNMoney.com*

The new agreement allows Twitter users to automatically broadcast their tweets to a message board on LinkedIn. While LinkedIn users will be able to have their status updates sent directly to their Twitter feed. "More and more, people are finding that the persona they create for themselves on the Web is part of their resume in many ways," added Biz Stone, co-founder and creative director of Twitter.

[Full article](#)

EU to halt government support in 2011. *Business Week*

European Union finance ministers confirmed that they would start withdrawing billions of euros in government support for their economies by 2011 at the latest. The European Commission says that all 27 nations in the European Union should see growth finally lift in 2011, when it forecasts growth of 1.6% after picking up by 0.7% next year.

[Full article](#)

HSBC sells to Santander. *Business Week*

HSBC Finance Corp. will sell its auto loan servicing business and \$1 billion in car loan receivables for \$904 million to Santander. The agreement is an important step in reducing its finance portfolio and offering its employees opportunities with a company demonstrating a longer term commitment to the auto finance business, said Niall Booker, HSBC Finance CEO.

[Full article](#)

November 9

Kraft bid denied by Cadbury. *Business Week*

British candy maker Cadbury PLC rejected a renewed 9.8 billion pound hostile bid from Kraft Foods Inc. after the refusal to sweeten its previous offer. "We believe that our proposal offers the best immediate and long-term value for Cadbury's shareholders and for the company itself compared with any other option currently available, including Cadbury remaining independent," said Kraft Foods Chief Executive Irene Rosenfeld.

[Full article](#)

EA acquires Playfish. *Business Week*

Electronic Arts has acquired Playfish, a privately held company that makes social network games, for \$275 million in cash. Electronic Arts says the purchase will help it transition into gaming among online communities.

[Full article](#)

T.Rowe Price Group buys into UTI. *Business Week*

Mutual fund manager T. Rowe Price Group Inc. is buying a 26% stake in Indian asset manager and mutual fund company UTI Asset Management Co. and UTI Trustee Co. for about \$138 million. T. Rowe Price said India's asset management industry has strong growth potential.

[Full article](#)

Microsoft buys SourceGear assets. *Business Week*

Microsoft Corp. says it will buy some assets of SourceGear LLC that will bolster its software design products. The assets will be integrated into next year's version of the Microsoft software writing program Visual Studio.

[Full article](#)

Google buying AdMob. *Business Week*

Google announced that it's buying AdMob, a provider of mobile ad technologies, for \$750 million in stock. If approved, the acquisition would provide Google with a key set of technologies to expand its advertising business beyond search-related text ads that make up the bulk of revenue.

[Full article](#)

R&D going global, US seeks to maintain tech leadership. *Business Week*

Research and development is increasingly going global, according to a new report by Duke's Offshoring Research Network (ORN). More than half of U.S. companies now have corporatewide initiatives to outsource innovation activities, up from 22% in 2005, according to the ORN, which has been tracking the growth of outsourcing since 2004.

[Full article](#)

McDonald's foreign sales better than domestic. *Business Week*

McDonald's has experienced strong sales in the U.S. during the recession as consumers traded down to cheaper food options. However, sales in stores open at least 13 months edged down 0.1% in the U.S. in October, partly due to strong year-ago comparisons. Last year, sales in stores open at least one year rose 5.3% in the U.S. and 8.2% overall.

[Full article](#)

November 8

A new ocean in the desert. *NPR*

Scientists studying a crevasse in the Ethiopian desert say we may be witnessing the birth of a future ocean. In 2005, a 35-mile-long rift broke open as two parts of the African continent separated. Researchers from

several countries have confirmed that the volcanic processes at work beneath the Ethiopian rift are nearly identical to those at the bottom of the world's oceans.

[Full article](#)

Oracle's deal: Oracle may need to loosen its grip. *Business Week*

When Oracle announced its \$7.4 billion acquisition of Sun Microsystems in April, the software behemoth was acting on a grand vision. However, in order to alleviate pressure from European Union regulators worried about Oracle's growing power, Oracle may be forced to give up some control of a key aspect of the deal: the open-source MySQL database software owned by Sun.

[Full article](#)

Power sharing presidency in Madagascar. *CNN.com*

Four current and former leaders of Madagascar have struck a power-sharing deal, ending months of political wrangling. The agreement was made among ousted President Marc Ravalomanana, current President Andry Rajoelina, who took power in March, and former presidents Didier Ratsiraka and Albert Zafy.

[Full article](#)

Iraq passes key voting law. *CNN.com*

Iraq's parliament on Sunday passed a long-awaited election law that the government said will allow national elections to take place in January. President Obama called the step "an important milestone as the Iraqi people continue to take responsibility for their future." The law has been the focus of great international concern, with United Nations and U.S. officials calling on Iraqi leaders to pass it.

[Full article](#)

Indian PM pushes for economic growth. *Business Week*

The Indian government is pushing ahead with economic reforms aimed at achieving a growth rate of more than 7% next year but will make sure the benefits reach the poor, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said. "Our strategy today is not just to deliver rapid growth, but to deliver rapid and inclusive growth," Singh said.

[Full article](#)

November 7

Second Life: Your virtual office. *CNN.com*

As travel budgets are squeezed and slashed in the recession, companies are increasingly seeking innovative ways of bringing employees together for conferences and meetings remotely. Virtual community Second Life is seeking to tap into that market by creating a new tool that allows businesses to have virtual meetings on their own computer networks.

[Full article](#)

China offers Africa more trade, investment. *Business Week*

China's Commerce Minister Chen Deming said Beijing is offering to abolish import duties on some African commodities and ensure that its exports to the continent are safe. "Africans need to up the ante to see how they can best leverage their potential and ensure that Chinese investments are channeled into those areas where they generate the most value," Edward K. Brown, director for policy services at the Africa Center for Economic Transformation said.

[Full article](#)

November 6

Berlin, the next corporate frontier. *Business Week*

Berlin has become a magnet for Internet and media startups as well as established corporations eager to tap the city's well-educated young people. Although the unemployment rate of 13.6% is Germany's highest, Berlin ranks near the top nationally in job creation. Most important, Berlin has largely dealt with the economic legacy of the Cold War.

[Full article](#)

Skype settlement helps with expansion. *Business Week*

Under terms of the agreement, Skype founders Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis will join the group of investors that's been trying to purchase Skype from eBay. Zennstrom and Friis will get a 14% stake, while Skype takes ownership of software previously owned by their company, Joltid. The resolution lets Skype's new owners turn their attention more fully to ramping up growth and adding new features.

[Full article](#)

Wal-mart wants to step into India market. *Business Week*

"We're stepping up growth in our international operations to take advantage of growing economies and opportunities in emerging markets such as China and Brazil," Wal-Mart executive vice-president and CEO Tom Schoewe said. The Indian market is crucial for Wal-Mart but current Indian laws don't allow foreign retailers to open multi-brand stores. Foreign investment is allowed only in single-brand retail to the extent of 51%.

[Full article](#)

GM Europe resigns. *CNN.com*

The president of General Motors Europe, Carl Peter Forster, plans to resign after GM's decision this week not to sell its European unit. General Motors has decided to keep its European Opel unit, canceling its planned sale to Canadian firm Magna.

[Full article](#)

New climate change treaty ready in 2010. *CNN.com*

A new international treaty to combat climate change will not be ready when 40 world leaders meet next month in Copenhagen but may be finished next

year, a top United Nations official said. The treaty would replace the existing Kyoto Protocol to curb emissions that contribute to global warming.

[Full article](#)

South Korea-India Free Trade Agreement. *Business Week*

South Korea approved a free trade deal with India that gives two of Asia's powerhouse economies vastly expanded access to each other's markets. Under the agreement, tariffs on Indian goods will be abolished or slashed by 90%, while those on South Korean products will be gradually cut by 85% over 10 years, according to South Korea.

[Full article](#)

November 5

Google adds to its customer service. *CNN.com*

Google is trying to figure that out. Known for using brilliant engineers, complex algorithms and speedy servers to organize online information in a simple and accessible fashion, Google is learning how to add the human touch to its repertoire as customers look for answers that can't be found on an FAQ.

[Full article](#)

U.S. ties with Myanmar can improve if progress is made. *CNN.com*

Scot Marciel, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia, traveled to Myanmar and stated the United States is willing to improve relations if that nation's ruling military junta takes tangible steps towards democracy. "We reaffirmed our commitment to a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Burma and we stressed the importance of genuine dialogue between the government and ethnic minorities. Fundamentally, the main problem is a lack of an inclusive political process."

[Full article](#)

CEO of the decade: Steve Jobs. *CNNMoney.com*

The past decade in business belongs to Jobs. What makes that simple statement even more remarkable is that barely a year ago it seemed likely that any review of his accomplishments would be valedictory. In all instances, and many more like them, entrepreneurs such as Steve Jobs turned captains of industry defined a single market that had previously not been dominated by anyone.

[Full article](#)

SkyTeam alliance wants Japan Airlines. *Business Week*

Executives with SkyTeam alliance wants Japan Airlines to join their group and suggested that doing so could be a boon for the troubled carrier. JAL, which is Japan's biggest airline, and can offer partners access to the world's second-biggest economy, has reportedly been in talks on financial tie-ups with SkyTeam's Delta Air and France-KLM, as well as oneworld's American Airlines, British Airways and Qantas.

[Full article](#)

Chips sales brighter than expected. *Business Week*

The Semiconductor Industry Association forecast for global chip sales is brighter than its previous projections, reflecting an improving economy. The industry group expects worldwide chip sales of \$219.7 billion for 2009, a decline of only 11.6% from 2008. In June, SIA had projected a decline of 21.3% for the year.

[Full article](#)

Thailand recalls Cambodia envoy over Thaksin. *CNN.com*

Thailand has withdrawn its ambassador to Phnom Penh after Cambodia appointed fugitive former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra as an economic adviser, a Thai government official. Along with recalling the ambassador, the Thai government will review further relations with Cambodia, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

[Full article](#)

November 4

Chrysler to profit in 2012? *Business Week*

Marchionne, who is also the CEO of Chrysler's controlling shareholder Fiat Group, projected that Chrysler will break even in 2010 and will make \$5 billion in operating profit in 2012. Marchionne is counting on stealing major market share from his rivals. He thinks Chrysler can grow from less than 9% of the U.S. market to more than 13%. That means he will double U.S. sales volume to 2 million.

[Full article](#)

November 2

Iraq-Eni sign Zubair oil deal. *Business Week*

Iraq's oil ministry signed an initial deal with a consortium led by Italy's Eni SpA to develop a prized southern oil field, an agreement representing a key step forward in the country's obstacle-strewn road to revamp its dilapidated oil sector. "Today, Iraq made a big leap on the way to develop its oil industry," said al-Shahristani of the deal, which comes a day before Iraq is to finalize an agreement with Britain's BP PLC to develop the nation's largest oil field. "We are happy with this progress and the achievement."

[Full article](#)

China invests in West Texas wind farm. *Business Week*

A Chinese-U.S. consortium announced it was building a 600 megawatt wind farm in Texas costing \$1.5 billion. The deal, in which the Chinese partner is putting up 49% of the cash, stipulates that the wind turbines will be manufactured in China by A-Power Energy Generation Systems. U.S. readers are upset that the project will generate more jobs overseas than at home, a

particularly vexing notion given that the project is seeking 30% of its financing from Washington stimulus funds.

[Full article](#)

Constellation in talks with Australian Vintage. *Business Week*

Wine and spirits maker Constellation Brands Inc. said it is mulling a deal to sell some of its assets or combine part of its Australian and U.K. wine operations with Australian Vintage Ltd., an Australian wine company. In return, Constellation, which makes Robert Mondavi wine, would receive a substantial, but non-controlling, interest in the combined entity.

[Full article](#)

Supreme Court takes a look at Mutual Fund fees. *NPR*

Ninety million Americans invest in retail mutual funds. The fees charged by these funds, while they may sound small percentage-wise, add up to big money. To understand this case you have to understand that mutual funds are run by professional investment advisers. The Supreme Court on Monday hears arguments in a case testing whether some mutual funds are charging excessive fees.

[Full article](#)

November 1

Macintosh share grows with Windows 7 launch. *CNNMoney.com*

If Microsoft was hoping that the launch of Windows 7 would halt the erosion of its operating system market share and curb further inroads by Apple, there is no evidence that it's working yet. In fact, preliminary data released overnight Sunday by Net Applications show Mac OS X's Internet share growing by 2.73% in October, from 5.12% to 5.26%.

[Full article](#)

